Scuttlebutt

June, 2026 – Issue #285

Captain's Log

Ken Caruso, WO1N – President

Hi all,

Lots going on at the home front and we have some great submittals this month. Therefore, I'll keep this one short.

Hamvention was a gas. I logged contacts with 37 different Club members. We had two YCCC members inducted into the Contest Hall of Fame. Check out their stories later in the issue. Congratulations Paul and Mark.

If you would like to contribute with the Club's 50th anniversary planning, please drop me a note. I am pulling together a working committee.

Several of our members will be participating in the IARU / WRTC 2026 event as competitors or referees. The best way to support them will be to get on the air for the IARU contest to be held 1200Z, July 11 to 1200Z July 12th. See you on the air!

73,
Ken, WO1N ♦

Contents

Captain's Log	1
Upcoming Contests	1
Club Contacts	2
Area Managers	2
Dayton Sights	2
2026 WMA Area Picnic Announcement	3
K1XM HoF Speech	4
Select DX Operations	6
K1RX HoF Speech	7
From the Editor	9
Errata	9
YCCC Club Resource Info	10

Upcoming Contests

RAC Canada Day	July 1
CQWW VHF SSB/CW	July 4-5
RSGB 80m Club Champ's CW	July 6
IARU HF World Championship	July 11-12
RSGB 80m Club Champ's SSB	July 15
CQWW VHF Digital	July 18-19
NAQP RTTY	July 18-19
10-10 Int. Summer Test SSB	Aug 1-2
NAQP CW	Aug 1-2
SARL HF Phone	Aug 2

Courtesy of WA7BNM

Above: YCCC well represented at Hamvention

Don't forget to pay your 2026 dues – Click Here

Dayton Sights

Courtesy of Ken, WO1N

Above: Gerry, W1VE and Fred, K2TR

Above: Mike, N2MG and Rus, K2UA

Above: Ken, WO1N and Jim, K1IR

Club Contacts

President	Ken Caruso, WO1N
Vice President	Paul Young, K1XM
Activities	Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ
Secretary	Brian Szewczyk, NJ1F
Treasurer	Bob Shohet, KQ2M
Editor	Mike DeChristopher, N1TA
Webmaster	Mike Gilmer, N2MG
Scorekeeper	Mike Visich, NG1M

Area Managers

ME	Joe Blinick, K1JB
NE MA (978/351)	Ken Caruso, WO1N
SE MA (508/774)	Charlie Morrison, N1RR
Boston (617/781)	Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P
WMA (413)	Jeff Bail, NT1K
ECT (860/959)	*Open*
WCT (203/475)	*Open*
NH	Dave Mackey, K1KA
RI	Dave Neil, W2DAN
NNY (518/315)	John Corini, KE1IH
NYC/LI (718/631/212)	Allen Singer, N2KW
SNY/NJ/PA (914)	*Open*
VT (802)	Chris Knox, KI1P
Quebec	Guy Lemieux, VE2BWL
Cape & Islands	*Open*

Above: Jeff, K1ZM and Jack, W1WEF

Above: Packed house at the Contest Dinner

Announcing: 2026 WMA Area Picnic

Jeff Bail, NT1K – WMA Area Manager

The Western Massachusetts section of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be hosting an area meeting as well as a potluck style picnic. It's open to YCCC members and those who are interested in becoming YCCC members. It will be at the K1TTT Superstation in Peru MA. We will kick things off at noon by having a quick meeting, interlude (so we can start grilling) and then into the picnic. Dave Robbins will be making his station available prior to the meeting and will be giving a tour. If you've never been to K1TTT's station, it's certainly worth checking out!

YCCC will be providing hotdogs and hamburgers. We ask attendees to bring either a side dish, snack, desert or drinks to be shared.

Last year we had 17 attendees and it appeared everyone had a great time.

We're requiring everyone attending to RSVP to NT1K, YCCC Western Mass area manager, by either email (nt1k@nt1k.com) or calling/leaving a message at 413-238-1992. If you are bringing a side dish, please let Jeff know what you plan on bringing so it can be noted. This allows us to purchase exactly what is needed.

When: Sunday, July 26th 2026

Where: K1TTT Superstation in Peru, MA.

Meeting Start: 12pm Station/Property Open Prior

Address: 15 Baumann Rd. Peru MA. 01235

Duration: 3-4 Hours

Parking Info: http://www.k1ttt.net/images/overflowparking.jpg

Other Info (directions etc): http://wiki.k1ttt.net/

A BIG THANKS to Dave Robbins, K1TTT for allowing us to use his property! Without him, it would have been much more difficult to make this happen!

Hope to see you there!!

73,
Jeff, NT1K ♦

2026 Contest Hall of Fame Induction Speech

Paul Young, K1XM

This acceptance speech was not written or edited by AI.

However, I looked up synonyms for *unworthy* on thesaurus.com. There are 37, of which seven seemed appropriate.

As Dennis said, I've been doing this because it's fun. I never thought I'd be wearing a suit at a Contest Dinner in Dayton.

I've been very fortunate and I have a lot of people to thank for it. I'll mention some, sort of chronologically.

As a kid I was always, as early as I can remember, interested in electricity and electronics.

In high school one of the teachers was a ham, now a silent key, W1TEZ. He had a Swan 350 which I thought was really impressive. He never operated 20 meters because it was too crowded but he put up an antenna for 15 at the school and allowed us to make some QSOs.

I got my license and became WN1OCU.

I was precocious. I know several hams who majored in ham radio in college. I did it in high school. The private school sort of kicked me out for spending too much time on ham radio and not enough attending classes.

I moved to the local high school, borrowed a DX-20 and set up a home station. When I got on the air I met Mark, WA1NRF, now K1PR who lived a couple blocks from me. We got into contesting because it seemed like a fun thing to do.

I joined Murphy's Marauders, which at the time was the big one-land club. There I met some pretty interesting people, some of whom are in this room, such as WA1ABV, WA1JYY, W1NJL, W1WEF, WA2CLQ, WA2LQZ, and WB2OEU, as well as some big guns, W1ZM and W2PV. I also met Stan, WA1MAO, now KA1ZE, who was building a station. We built a station which was competitive as a single-op or multi-single. Stan was a machinist and built almost all of the antennas. I learned a lot from that. Thanks to Stan for the education.

Anyhow, I continued to major in amateur radio in high school. The town had a time-sharing computer and some model 33 teletypes and I minored in computer programming.

The most valuable class I took in high school was typing. I think I was the only boy in the class, everyone else was on a secretarial track. I know what some of you are thinking but nerds weren't cool back then.

I was suspended from school for wiping out the town's computer, but they never did anything to me for putting a hole in the roof when the quad fell over.

After taking a couple summer classes I graduated from high school, 13% from the bottom of my class. Somehow I was able to get into a 2 year electronics program at a local college. That was more fun and I graduated with honors. One of the professors suggested I apply at a place he used to work and I got a job as a technician in an R&D lab, mostly building prototype equipment. Building prototypes is a fancy way of saying homebrewing electronic stuff. Special thanks to my boss, George, and senior technician Dick for all they taught me.

I continued college at night, and when I got my degree I got an offer from a computer company to work on software. I took it and moved to Massachusetts. My work career was in software engineering.

I got married and built a small station. I also picked up another hobby, international folk dancing, which has the advantage of not requiring any equipment.

I was invited to operate at a few multi-ops, most notably W1KM. Greg has a big station and he, W1UE, W1FJ and I operated multi-multi in the ARRL DX CW contest. With four operators and four radios we weren't competitive with W3LPL or K3LR but I think we broke the multi-multi record three times.

My wife got a brochure from Earthwatch. They offered trips where volunteers pay to help scientists doing research projects. One of the projects was in Palau, which at the time was KC6. That was our first real DXPedition. We took a TS-930 and SB-200 as carry-ons. Later that year we joined the HC8X multi-multi for our first contest DXpedition. I found I liked operating the CQ WW contest from outside the US and have done so almost every year since then.

I kept improving the home station, which is limited because we're on a 1/3 acre lot. I built some of the stuff for it, such as a rotor controller and I switched antennas with dow-key relays.

As time went on I wanted to improve it and to try SO2R. I looked at the available SO2R boxes and found most of them used LPT ports. LPT ports were basically obsolete. There was one box which used a USB port but it was really expensive. So I decided to build one.

I've never been comfortable spending a lot of money on homebrew projects and so I designed something that wasn't very expensive. Keeping the cost down is a fun design challenge.

I brought my prototype to a YCCC meeting and Bruce, WW1M said "I could lay out a board for that". Jose, N4BAA said "I can design an enclosure", and Dennis, W1UE, said "I could handle parts orders for a kit". I figured we would build, maybe fifteen of them. There were three surface mount parts and I could solder them onto the boards.

But YCCC members had other ideas and the first batch was thirty. That's ninety surface mount parts I'd have to solder. Bruce said he knew of a place in Maine where little old ladies do surface mount soldering. I asked him to check the cost and he came back with "two dollars per board". Since we had more orders than planned, some of the components were less expensive. I asked Dennis if there was money to cover it and he said yes. Thank god! I might have been able to solder ninety parts but the second order was for more. At first it was only available within YCCC but the word got out. We shipped over seven hundred kits. I needed a protocol for this thing to speak and I came up with OTRSP. I want to thank the people involved, especially Dennis, who handled all of the parts and ordering Eric, KV1J, who reviewed the protocol, and Dave, K1HT who critically reviewed the manual.

I had heard about K1GQ's antenna switching system which used a process control computer. I decided to try something similar but using the cheap microprocessors which were now available. The result was the original Mother of All Switches. It had a box with two knobs and a display. I concluded that was a mistake - too difficult to build and too inflexible. So I built a new version, the MOAS II. It was designed to be a cheap antenna switch but adding capabilities has mostly involved writing more software so it now has lots of advanced features.

How I came to be the DXLog lead developer is too long a story to tell here. But I want to thank Krassy, K1LZ - if it weren't for his actions DXLog would have ended when 9A5K passed away. And also Bjorn, SM7IUN who stepped up to do much of the development.

And I really want to thank my wife Charlotte, KQ1F. I couldn't have done this without her. I know she dreams of someday the shack not being cluttered with half-built projects and piles of parts. And it may happen someday but not for a while as I have several more projects I'm playing with.

In my final couple seconds I will give you some advice.

- Try things. Failure can be OK if you learn from it.
- Learn from other people's failures - you can't do them all yourself.
- Safety wire your turnbuckles.
- Building a big station is easy.
- Maintaining a big station is difficult.
- Finding operators for a big station is almost impossible.

One last thing. I noticed Hall of Fame members K1EA, N1MM, N6TR, K8CC, N2IC, 9A5K, K1GQ, and I were all contest logging software developers. No guarantees, but we're looking for another developer or two for DXLog. Just sayin'

73,
Paul, K1XM ♦

Select DX Operations

July, 2026

Start	End	DXCC	Call
Jul02	Jul11	Ogasawara	JD1BQP
Jul03	Jul14	Greenland	OX/DL8JJ
Jul04	Jul23	Crete	SV9/HB9EMP
Jul07	Aug04	Benin	TY5FR
Jul08	Jul17	Sardinia	IS0/IZ3KVD
Jul22	Aug14	S. Cook Isl.	E51KEE
Jul23	Aug08	Azerbaijan	4K/DL4XT
Jul 26	Aug08	S. Cook Isl.	E51CZZ

August, 2026

Start	End	DXCC	Call
Aug05	Aug10	Bahamas	C6AYM
Aug06	Aug10	Aruba	P40AA
Aug15	Aug16	Namibia	V55LH
Aug15	Aug22	St. Lucia	J68TT
Aug18	Aug29	Canary Isl.	EA8/IZ1GDB

Data from NG3K.com. Please submit YCCC member DXpeditions to the editor to be included here.

2026 Contest Hall of Fame Induction Speech

Mark Pride, K1RX

This brings new meaning to the term shock and awe. I am in total awe. For years I have participated in these dinners and watched Hall of Famers get inducted and I've just been struck with the incredibleness of these people. It's just remarkable to be a part of this and I thank you very much. This has been a lifelong venture for me. The first word that comes to mind is fun. This hobby has turned into careers. I have been influenced by so many hundreds of people. It's just remarkable. So the theme fun has always been in my mind. Anytime I bring someone into the station to operate, it's all about you're going to have fun first and it'll be an exciting adventure for you.

When I first started operating with my call K1RX after WN1ABV, WA9NOI, WB2YEW, then back to WA1ABV and then K1RX. People would ask me on the air, "Are you a doctor?" And I would say, "No, but I play one on the radio." And then I get the other question, "Are you a pharmacist?" And I'd say, "No, but I could direct you to a Walgreens or Rite Aid pretty easily."

But what really drives this whole thing, in fact, for everyone in this room is a chemical called adrenaline. You get an adrenaline rush when you operate a contest, when you're making 50 QSOs an hour last year and now you're doing a hundred QSOs an hour, or you get invited on a DXpedition and you sit in front of a radio and the entire world is calling you. The adrenaline rush is beyond belief and I think we can all relate to that and it's just incredible. So it comes down to a very basic chemistry issue here and I just really want to thank everyone for allowing this whole thing to happen in my life. I've been working with Kevin, W1DED as mentioned earlier, Q5 Worldwide Ham Radio and that's been an incredible experience for me. Number one, I've never really been in front of a camera that much and probably shows if you watch the seven episodes.

We shared a number of topics and it's been really enjoyable to do that, to bring a message. The focus has always been with that series has been how do we promote the hobby or the contesting interest to the younger people, the inexperienced, the ones who've never experienced this kind of thing at all. How do you break them into it? How do you set some expectations and the like? And one of the themes that I tend to drive with anybody coming into the shack, I have four words that come to mind and due to this old age issue I've got the list in front of me. I describe it as the soul of amateur radio.

I call it the four Cs, Connectivity. Yep, we're all connected in a million ways here. It's great. Control. We are controlling the entire infrastructure. You get to put the radio on the table, you get to put the antenna up. Every aspect of this communication activity is in your control. The third item, when you get on the air and you start talking to people at any rate, be it one

per hour or 450 per hour, Curiosity kicks in and you want to start learning about the people on the other side. And then the final element of that is what I call ... Well, it's Creativity. You have a group of people that are driven by competitiveness that will just drive this creativity beyond belief. We're all individuals in this competition and we all have individual approaches to solving various issues. How do I create a bigger score, whatever it might be – what are my competitors doing? Station setup, antennas, equipment, software?

And with all of those elements in play, and this is what I convey to the new people coming in, this is really the crux of the hobby. And what I also add, oh by the way, contesting just makes it happen a whole lot faster. And it's really a positive in that sense. So I try to do that, push that theme. My entire life has been built on this hobby and it's hard to believe. I set my career on it. It's amazing. Most of the stuff I learned in amateur radio, regardless of all the electrical engineering work and all the stuff that, the formal education in practically every job I ever had, it related to my experience with amateur radio and contesting and the like. Hundreds of stories I could share. I was discouraged from bringing the 300 slide presentation tonight about "How I spent my summer vacation". But anyway, I'll try and keep this fairly short here and that this really inspired me to just keep growing in this hobby for the fun, the networking. And when you look around the room here, you're looking at an incredible network of talent. You need anything, any kind of a help on a problem, there's always someone in this room or elsewhere that can give you a hand with that. And that is the most incredible thing about this hobby and that's what's just excited me even today. I encourage station owners, to open them up, you've got good stations out there. I absolutely encourage you to bring in new people. Some of the examples that were given tonight, K8AZ, unbelievable numbers, and that's just mind blowing. But the point of it is, is bring in the new people, set them down, sit with them, show them the right habits to have.

There's always this term bad habits that people talk about. It's really not bad habits. It's the habits they've learned in doing other things in the hobby. It might be message handling, traffic handling, whatever it is. So when you hear QSL, Roger, good DX to your dog and all these other comments that just don't add any value in the contest sense, give them guidance.

And of course they're going to be initially intimidated. Anybody walking in, I guarantee you, anybody walking into your shack that's never really played radio seriously, walk into any one of your stations, they will be absolutely intimidated. They'll have no idea what's going on. So you've got to be patient. That's something I learned in this whole thing.

As you get older, patience just tends to run out and it kills me sometimes. I've got to hold my tongue and not jump on them and tell them work that multiplier, call the station quicker, do whatever, these kinds of issues. But once you get through that, they get comfortable and it's amazing how it takes off. People have shown up at my house and maybe the best they have worked is 10 QSOs an hour. They leave two or three hours later. They're doing 75 to 100 an hour. They're comfortable. They got introduced to the software. Things are clicking. I had to spend time, obviously, to get them to that point, but it is absolutely worth it. It is absolutely critical to the success of amateur radio contesting. I'd love to see 5,000 people show up in this room. I know it'd be a little tight and then probably strain the management, but honestly, this is where we want to take this because there's so much to offer in this hobby and in particular contesting.

Get them introduced to multi-op situations. Everybody's got different experiences, but every single one of them is valuable and that tribal knowledge that you can impart to these new people, it's priceless, absolutely priceless. So I encourage that.

And I guess I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to donate to WRTC UK tonight. About a year ago, my buddy over here, K1DG and another guy, Mark, M0DXR, corralled me out on the floor somewhere and stated, "Mark, I need you to help us out with fundraising." And so I stepped up to volunteer and helped drive the North American fundraising activity, spent a lot

of time Zoom calls with clubs, contest clubs, trying to generate interest and activity and the like.

I'm going to declare tonight, this is my final announcement that I'm looking for money. And just to add one little note to that, with all those envelopes on your table for a donation to WRTC, and have an amount in mind, I'd ask that you double that amount. Seriously, double the amount that you were initially thinking of contributing because this is an incredibly valuable moment in July in the UK, and I just absolutely want to encourage you to do that. Thank you everybody. I appreciate it.

73,
Mark, K1RX ♦

From the Editor

Mike DeChristopher, N1TA

There's no minute like the last minute! This issue has "gone to press" about two weeks later than I would have liked. I moved myself and the computer I use for editing the *'Butt* last month and things became befuddled ("things" being a hard drive, and "befuddled" meaning percussively destroyed in the bed of a pickup). A new machine is now in tow, and your editor is back in business – my apologies on both counts.

We hope you have enjoyed this issue. We heard from K1XM and K1RX on their CQ Contest Hall of Fame inductions – a high honor to have two of our own so feted in Xenia. We also have a Western Mass area meeting in the works, thanks to Jeff, NT1K (*Jeff says: "Please RSVP!"*) and I hope to see you there.

Most of you are coming off of Field Day weekend with your local clubs. Hopefully, you have inspired one or two new contesters and perhaps prospective YCCC members. It is always incumbent on us to inspire the next generation, and I remain consistently proud of this club for doing so.

The next issue of the *Scuttlebutt* will be in August. Please submit your content to me as early as possible. I shall endeavor to have it out before the last day of the month!

73,
Mike, N1TA ♦

Errata

We busted Max's call sign in the March Director's Meeting minutes. It should have read N4ML. Apologies to Max.

YCCC Club Resource Information

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP STUFF: Dues for the year are payable as of January 1st. Please note that payment of current dues IS NOT a prerequisite for contributing scores to the Club aggregate but IS required for participation in the Club's email reflector and the Club's awards programs. The YCCC has a multi-tiered membership:

> *Full Member* - $25 (Available to amateurs residing within the Club territory for all YCCC member benefits and e-mail delivery of the Club newsletter.)
>
> *Family Member* - $0 (Grants full membership benefits to all family amateurs residing at one domicile upon payment of one member's "Full Member" annual dues. The Club Newsletter will be sent to the full member's email address.)
>
> *Student Member* - $10 (Grants full membership to students at a reduced cost.) Subscription- $10 (A "friend of YCCC", not a member, but a possible candidate for future membership and receives club newsletter in e-mail form.)
>
> *Former Member* - $0 (A former full member who has moved out of the Club territory may continue to participate in the Club's e-mail reflector and receive the e-mailed newsletter at no cost.)

You can tell if you owe dues by checking the Club roster on the website. (https://yccc.org/roster) A lapsed member can reinstate lost privileges by paying the current year dues. PayPal is preferred to Yankee Clipper Contest Club, Inc. or mail a check made out to the YCCC to the Treasurer, Bob Shohet, KQ2M. Please include your callsign, family callsigns, and year(s) being paid. Note: If paying by PayPal; PayPal no longer allows the Club to receive dues from "family or friends" so you will not have that option.

SCUTTLEBUTT ARTICLES should be sent to the Scuttlebutt editor, editor@yccc.org. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month or as announced on the YCCC e-mail list. Scuttlebutt Advertising: Nominal Business Card sized ad, $50 per year (6 appearances)

CONTEST SCORES should be reported on 3830Scores.com. Additionally, post your scores to the Club Reflector. Include the 3830 Scores formatted output or the output from your favorite contest logger.

BADGES: YCCC badges are available. Send $3 to the Treasurer via PayPal as above; then send name and call desired on the badge and mailing address to Tony, K1KP.

QSL CARDS are ordered through Tom, W1TO. To order, complete the QSL form from the YCCC website, send it to W1TO who will verify all information is included and send to UX5UO after resolving any issues. You will receive a proof copy directly from UX5UO. Approve the proof after resolving any issues with UX5UO. Email acceptance to UX5UO with copy to W1TO. Current price is $45/thousand (matte) and $49/thousand heavy matte. Payment to UX5UO representative, KD4POJ at Mr David Lipscomb, KD4POJ, 4201 13th Street NE, Minot, ND, 58703. Email: kd4poj@srt.com

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER is posted on the YCCC website. Updates are published in 'Movers and Shakers' when members move or change callsigns.

CLUB EMAIL REFLECTOR: To subscribe, go to https://groups.io/g/yccc/join and enter your email address.

WWW HOME PAGE: visit us at http://www.yccc.org. Our Webmaster is Mike Gilmer, N2MG.

QSL BUREAU: The W1 QSL BUREAU is sponsored by the YCCC. For more information see: www.w1qsl.org; Address: W1 QSL Bureau, PO Box 73, Marlborough, MA 01752-0073. Email: w1qsl@w1qsl.org